

Are we in the middle of a wild goose chase?

SPECIAL REPORT

by **MICHELLE ROBSON**

michelle.robson@stornowaygazette.co.uk

KEEPING one step ahead of the goose is the only way to deal with them, says Uist's Goose Co-ordinator who believes scaring tactics are working in the Southern Isles.

This comes as Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil calls for tougher measures and says scaring just moves the birds from one field to another on a 'wild goose chase' and doesn't do anything about increasing numbers.

Crofters in Lewis and Harris say the numbers coming north are a growing problem and are not only affecting their crops but also causing a hazard in local playparks and football pitches.

The Uist Goose Management Scheme commenced for 2011 last week, a project which is funded and coordinated by the Conserving Scottish Machair LIFE+ project. A partnership between SNH, RSPB, the Comhairle and the Scottish Crofting Federation and co-funded by EU LIFE+ money. It is now in its second year and Co-ordinator Rory MacGillivray believes there were results in the first year.

"Overall crop yield and quality was up and on the goose count, the numbers were slightly down on previous year's counts," he said.

"Feedback from the crofters has been very good, in response to the successful crop protection many crofters have increased their cropping areas, agreed to 'late cut' dates etc. Many have agreed to crop the more traditional way."

He is aware that crofter co-operation is very much dependent on the scheme showing results, but thinks they are making inroads.

"If the crop protection hadn't been successful, these agreements simply would not/could not have happened. This for us is the mark of how well the first year's programme has gone. Crofter confidence has increased."

The scarers working in Uist are experienced in the movement of the geese and Rory says any disruption to their natural pattern of movement can make it more difficult to control them.

This makes him wary of hailing more gun licences as the answer to the problem.

"More licences would normally suggest more crop protection, more geese shot, but in my personal view, only in theory. The goose is a wily bird, the saying 'wild goose chase' wasn't just picked at random."

He explains that the birds adapt quickly to scaring methods and the answer seems to be to rotate the use of different methods and allow them to maintain their natural movements.

"Tides, moon phases, weather, wind direction etc all bring changes to its patterns. Knowing through this experience has allowed the scarers to be in most cases a step ahead of the goose and plug gaps rather than be a step behind and try to recover situations."

He added: "When we have a moon the goose patterns and flight times change completely. If this programme becomes less coordinated and too much pressure is put on to the goose too quickly, it will simply change its patterns and the scarers knowledge and experience become less valuable."

"To protect the crop it is important that we keep the geese as close as we can to its normal patterns, that way we are at our most effective as scarers, as we have a good idea what it is about to do and can therefore stay ahead, lose that and lose our advantage."

Despite these positive developments in the Uists, crofters still maintain that not enough is being done to protect their crops and want pressure to be put on SNH to implement further measures.

The Gazette's latest website poll found that nearly 80 per cent of respondents felt more should be done to control geese populations.

And Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil, a crofter himself who has first hand experience of the nuisance bird, is not convinced that scaring geese is enough.

He said: "The answer is not chasing them



"Excessive numbers of geese are fouling not only on crofts but on football pitches and other play areas causing contamination."

from one field to the next but it is about having a sustainable answer and doing something about the numbers."

The Environment Minister when he visited Lewis last month said he had confidence in the existing measures being used to control the geese numbers.

However Mr MacNeil is not the only politician calling for this to be looked at again.

Labour's Rhoda Grant, MSP for Highlands and Islands said: "I understand that the numbers of greylag geese resident on the Western Isles has tripled in the last 20 years causing continued hardship for the crofter who is trying to feed stock. No-one wants to see the geese wiped out, but there has to be a balance and they need to be controlled and managed."

And now crofters in Lewis and Harris, traditionally suffering less from geese impact than the Southern Isles, are also feeling the effects.

A spokesperson for a new organisation Croitearan nan Eilean (Crofters of the Isles), said scaring methods were failing and that Scottish Ministers must start acting on the issue.

"There has been enough 'shilly-shallying' by ministers on this issue," he said. "It is not as if it hasn't been brought to their attention on numerous occasions. It is time for action. There is an excessive and unacceptable number of geese grazing and fouling not only crofts and common grazings but football pitches and other play areas as well. It does not seem right that children should have to suffer this contamination of their playing areas."

He added that the Lewis and Harris Goose Management Group was meeting at the end of this month to discuss the issue.

Croitearan nan Eilean is also organising a conference on Friday September 30 in the Cabarfeidh Hotel. This will feature a number of distinguished speakers who will be announced in due course. Anyone wishing any further information on this can contact HQ@croitearan.com for details.

Talking about a new Gaelic Centre for Isles

A WORLD class Centre for Gaelic Language, music and dance could be built on South Uist, writes *Michelle Robson*.

The idea is to be investigated by Consultants Dunira Strategy on behalf of Ceòlas as a potential way of safeguarding the future of the hugely successful summer school.

Like many arts projects, Ceòlas is highly dependent on public funding and in the current economic climate, this is not considered to be sustainable. In response to this challenge, the forward-thinking organisation is taking things into their own hands and pursuing this exciting new possibility.

Dunira are working with Benjamin Tindall Architects to consider the potential for a dedicated Gaelic Centre to be built on the island.

Managing Director of Dunira Strategy, Benjamin Carey said Ceòlas was a 'remarkable and unique organisation with an international reputation and that they felt privileged to be working with them on this project.

He said: "In 1999, Ceòlas commissioned a survey, which recommended that it should establish a Gaelic Arts Centre on South Uist in order to diversify its activities and income streams.

"For a number of reasons, this was never implemented and Dunira has now been commissioned to review the plans and investigate the viability of such a development."

He added: "Any sustainable development needs to balance the opportunity for social and economic development with the need to maintain what is so special about Ceòlas, which primarily is about learning about Gaelic culture in a uniquely Gaelic

environment. "The title that we have adopted for the project is 'Oighreachd 's Solus: Duthchas 's Dualchas' which reflects our approach."

With a growing interest in Scottish Culture and the possibility of Scottish Studies being added to the school curriculum, those behind the project believe this is a good time to take it forward.

"Now is the time to realise an initiative that builds on the achievements of Ceòlas and complements other initiatives on the Uists and across the Highlands and Islands," said Mr Carey. "We will not reinvent the wheel, but nor are we restricted by a set agenda."

"A whole range of options is being considered and – for balance – it will be important to achieve a mix of activities with different audiences at different times of the year. This project is a tremendous opportunity for Scotland generally and South Uist in particular."

As well as the continuation of the summer school, there is the possibility of week-long Gaelic immersion course for Scottish trainee teachers, a centre for local music lessons, academic courses in association with partners universities, and various Gaelic research activities.

A survey is currently being conducted online as part of the wider consultation and can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.com/s/W59F2X6

A two day workshop will also take place August 28 and 29 between 6 and 8pm to consider the design of the proposed centre.

To attend or to request further information please email ceolas@dunira.com or call 0845 370 8076.

Nurse reassures that a quality care service will remain

by **ELIDH WHITEFORD**

elidh.whiteford@stornowaygazette.co.uk

SPECULATIVE news reports about nursing service changes and the suggestion of forced patient transfers between medical practices and care homes within North and South Uist have left these communities confused and concerned.

Modernisation of community nursing in the Western Isles has been ongoing since May 2009 with the undertaking of the Community Nursing Review – an examination of the service to ensure that resources are targeted in response to patient need.

This sparked recent media reports, which suggested that health services were about to change radically without consultation. However, this is far from reality, as Senior Charge Nurse for Uist Mary Mackenzie explained: "I was gob-smacked when I read the report. This is not about service changes, it is about nurses working to the best, using their skills where needed."

"Staff have been fully involved in the developments and patients are still going to get the same care – there is no reduction in nurses, it's about using nurses effectively. We're all one team and all provide care to our island area patients."

A spokesperson for NHS Western Isles expanded: "One of the key changes that has taken place earlier this year was the development of new area teams, with new Senior Charge Nurses appointed for each area."

"The Uist team includes North Uist, South Uist and Benbecula, and the nurses within the Uist team work across these areas."

"The level and scope of the services available to the population has not changed and more impor-

tantly has not reduced," they continued.

"In fact, the changes to the numbers and size of teams has in effect resulted in more nursing staff to deliver hands on care, as less time is now spent on management-related issues."

PASSIONATE ABOUT PATIENT CARE

Commenting on the enthusiasm at which island nursing staff have welcomed developments coming out of the Nursing Review, Senior Charge Nurse Mackenzie said: "Nurses are passionate about patient care and delivering that care in the best possible way they can – and that's what we're looking at. The staff really came on board with the review and since 2009 have been waiting on developments coming in and have been desperate to start."

"We're making sure that senior staff from up and down the islands are all singing from the same hymn sheet and that patients who need care are getting that care to the very best standard."

She continued: "The report talked about fears of patients getting shifted from one care home to another, well that's just not right, we can't go shifting patients."

"We're looking at better management of the resources we have. If I have a patient in the south of the island and a nurse in the north with the appropriate skills to treat that patient better, then I'll ask the nurse to go down and see the patient as she has the best skills and knowledge to care. It's the nurses who will move, not the patients."

Senior Charge Nurse Mary Mackenzie added that if anyone had any concerns or fears regarding the nursing services and provision in the Uists, she would welcome them to get in touch with her at the Balivanich Clinic on 01870 602 266.

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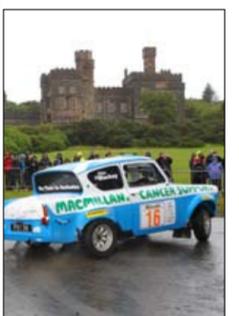
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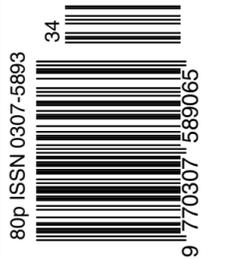
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INTERNET POLL RESULTS: SHOULD MORE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO CONTROL GEESE NUMBERS? Yes 79% No 21%

See page 4 for this week's poll question

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appealing for fresh minds on CC

With the forthcoming South Harris Community Council (SHCC) elections, new minds are needed with a fresh approach: people who value and appreciate the potential of their surroundings and would like to participate and make things happen whilst representing their neighbours, their community.

Recent examples of the SHCC making a mockery of democratic opinions include:

1- Not pushing for National Park status when 72% of the resident of Harris voted 70% in favour. This would create long term employment in Harris.

2- SHCC voted 7-1 in favour of the Sound of Harris fish farm, despite local opposition and a strong warning from Marine Harvest Scotland that the location of this project as a disease free firebreak, rather than creating seven jobs, could threaten the future of fish farming in the entire Western Isles (by allowing disease to travel more easily between management areas).

None of the created employment would benefit South Harris.

3- It would also help if the community were kept informed by the publishing and posting up of the summary of minutes of SHCC meetings.

We need fresh minds who care about what is happening around them.

Do you have two hours every two months to commit to represent your neighbours and friends?

Nomination papers may be obtained from the Council Offices in Tarbert or from the Comhairle's website:

www.cne-sair.gov.uk/electionoffice/communitycouncils/elections.asp

And delivered to the Returning Officer at the same office by Tuesday, August 30, 2011.

MR and MRS MERLIN
7 Quidinish
Isle of Harris

Serving the community?

Recently our MP, Angus MacNeil was voicing concerns over certain food prices in the local Co-op store on Barra as he had complaints on the high prices on various items.

Now sadly, this not a new thing for us Islanders, as for the past two years or so prices in the Co-op have got out of hand. As an example I recently while on the mainland bought a Terrys Orange chocolate ball for £1.50, but in our Daliburgh store the same item costs approx £3.40!

That is over twice what I paid on the mainland, although not in a Co-op store may I add.

Over and above that I would seriously question why we have two aisles of booze and candy, when we can not get a nail or a tin of paint.

Those aisles could take a lot of real foods and household necessities.

This is not serving the community, but serving the Co-op and its profits alone, full stop

It brings to mind a story I heard a few years back, when a quick witted gentleman said: "Well, I can't get chicken feed anywhere, but I can plenty booze and condoms!"

That really shows up what kind of a community we are living in these days.

I know that there are local individuals who are appointed to represent us on the Co-operative board, but seem to be sticking their heads in the sand. So at the end of the day, both the Co-op and the ones who are supposed to represent us are doing absolutely nothing to serve the people and communities.

Time to take a stand here I'd say, the Co-operative is not and has not for a number of years now been serving the island communities correctly, and to start with they first must remove the convenience store classifications, and have it as a Grocery and general store, that would be the first step.

To whom it may concern - serve the people, not yourselves and that alone!

MR A CAMPBELL
Garrynamonie,
Isle of South Uist

New flag design

I'm writing in response to the proposition to create a new flag for the Western Isles based upon the Scandinavian cross.

In these times of financial crisis, it could be that the last thing on people's minds is choosing an island flag. But if we're going to do it, let's do it properly. It's an opportunity to create a lasting symbol to represent the islands, a 'branding' to make the islands more visible in the wider world and, indirectly, to help the economy.

I have worked on Hebridean history for many years, and I would suggest that there is an overwhelming case for choosing the galley or birlinn as the main symbol on a Western Isles flag. I am a great admirer of Sheriff Colin Scott Mackenzie's historical scholarship, but cannot agree with his suggestion that we should choose a variation on the common Scandinavian flag design.

The galley has been an emblem representing these islands, and the Western Highlands as a whole, for many centuries, ever since the Middle Ages.

It is used on most of the major local clan coats of arms as a symbol of sea power. Unlike the cross design, the galley is old, native, and established. It belongs to the Hebrides.

EDITOR'S SAY

GAELIC CENTRE

A vision for a world class centre for Gaelic in South Uist is slowly coming into focus with the news that consultants Dunira Strategy will investigate the idea on behalf of arts project Ceòlas.

Money for arts projects is tight and Ceòlas, amongst many others, is dependent on public funding, so if a Gaelic centre for South Uist can be brought to fruition then the organisation will become masters of their own fate.

The idea is not a new one - the concept was first mooted in 1999 - but with the future of the Gaelic language, as well as Scottish culture in general ranking high on the political agenda, it is thought now is the time for action.

Exciting ideas such as this are the way forward to revitalise Gaelic as well as revitalising the Western Isles. National headlines for too long have screamed about 'wasting' money on Gaelic; that the taxpayers cannot afford to give cash to this 'dying' language.

But to lose this language would be a disaster for Gaels and also a tragedy for Scottish culture. Ideas which lessen the dependence of the language on public funding will quieten such criticism, and the wider public will begin to perceive the language as standing on its own two feet.

We hope that a Gaelic centre for South Uist does become a reality and is just one of many projects which will give a backbone to the language, aiding it to walk tall without taxpayer funds.

Much more so than the recently invented 'Western Isles cross', the galley is a perfect, concrete, and authentic example of the Norse-Gaelic synthesis which for so long was the key to island achievements.

The birlinn is an indigenous adaptation of the Norse longship for the shallow seas and sea lochs of the Western Highlands.

For perhaps half a millennium it represented the very pinnacle of Western European maritime technology. It is a tradition of which all islanders can be justifiably proud.

The most basic, and most important question about any flag or symbol is whether it stands out in a crowd.

The cross design certainly wouldn't, a non-descript symbol which tells the average spectator nothing about the land it is supposed to represent.

The colour symbolism adduced to support it is questionable: in twenty years of researching Gaelic tradition, I have never come across any reference to the idea that green is somehow a 'Gaelic colour'. In fact, if anything, green in Gaelic tradition is ill-starred and unlucky; bright green, uaine, is the colour connected with the dangerous sithichean or fairies, while glas in most dialects is the colour of death.

The galley is a magnificent and powerful symbol, a unique, ready-made logo full of character, rooted in our history, with the potential to be recognised world-wide as an emblem of excellence for the Western Isles, just like the Harris Tweed orb.

As with the orb, such branding may have financial benefits too. As it stands, the Comhairle flag is certainly too complex, but surely a talented local artist or designer could devise an image with one single, maybe simplified, galley as its focus.

I hope that Sheriff Mackenzie will forgive me, but I feel that to throw away the galley and replace it with a bland, identikit 'Scandinavian' cross would be the equivalent of throwing out valuable antique furniture and replacing it with Ikea flatpacks.

DOMHNALL UILLEAM STIUBHART
28 Dunrobin Place
Edinburgh
EH3 5HZ

Point school

With reference to your front page article on the new Point school (Sgoil an Rubha), we would be pleased if you could provide information on the general statement in the final paragraph 'it is a disgrace what has been allowed to happen here'.

Could you clarify what exactly has been allowed to happen for the benefit of your readers as the statement carries an innuendo of something hidden, unauthorised and perhaps even illegal?

In our experience, and in the eyes of the Point community, what has been 'allowed to happen' is the completion of a superbly managed, highly specified, well finished, state of the art, leading technology school - on time, and on budget.

We are at a loss to understand what your anonymous local contractor is complaining of, as the cash flow required for the construction of even one of these schools in a thirteen month timeframe is well beyond the generosity of the banking industry in the present economic climate, and from our knowledge local contractors in the public sector are struggling to deliver on their existing commitments.

Many of the local media took the opportunity along with ourselves to inspect the school thoroughly last week (we did not see the author of the article) and none of us saw any evidence of poor construction, far less roof leaks.

What we, the children and staff saw was the most advanced educational facility in the North of Scotland; a superbly designed and spacious school space; a well finished and highly specified building within and without and a place where children for generations to come will delight to come and be educated with the facilities and resources they deserve and require.

We, the three Sgìre an Rubha councillors, are delighted with the building and the co-operation we have received from John Marr and his team at FMP, the staff and the Joint Parent Council in achieving this milestone in education provision in our area.

We cordially invite you to come and see the facility for yourself, and perhaps you may then have the information to set the record straight.

Clìr DONALD I NICHOLSON
Clìr NORMAN M MACLEOD
Clìr DONALD JOHN MACSWEEN
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar offices
Sandwick Road
Stornoway

Two main claims were made in this story: a question mark over the finish of the work and the possibility of a leak in the roof. I believe the quote you refer to is in reference to these claims.

Both of these claims appear to have been validated by the information given in the story by the Operations Manager, as he talked of a snagging list and that there may have been an ingress of water due to a faulty roof light.

The Gazette is happy to report on the achievements of the Comhairle, and its Councillors fighting the good fight in their communities, however we also have a duty to question - and report on the answers to those questions - the projects and practices of the Local Authority and its members when the public call on us to do so.

In the case of this story I believe the answers to our questions put to rest unease that the work at this school project was not up to scratch.

The information in the story details that the work was finished to a safe standard offering reassurance to parents that the school is an excellent new educational home for the children of Point and underlining the achievement of the Local Authority in commissioning this build.

Editor, Melinda Gillen

Stornoway library

Not too long ago, I was searching for some very specific information pertaining to Stornoway.

My use of the internet was proving fruitless. I took a chance and e-mailed the Stornoway Library with my request. There was a prompt acknowledgement, followed by the result of their search.

I was very pleased and grateful to the historian of your stellar library.

NH DEAN
5 Penny Lane
PO Box 318
Norwich, Vermont 05055

Island nicknames

Thank you for publishing a tribute to my mother (04/08/11). I was disappointed to note that you omitted both her patronymic (sloinntearachd air taobh d'athair, as we would say in Gaelic) and her married attribution. (Married women have traditionally taken their husband's patronymic, as in my Mother's case. My Father's patronymic was published some 28 years ago.)

Do not mistake me: I applaud the Gazette for the central part it has played in binding the communities of the Long Archipelago of the Outer Hebrides together from its beginnings; and in informing the many beyond, of matters unfolding 'at home'.

It would be a pity to drop the patronymic and other usages that have, since time immemorial, given a precise identity to the Gaels. This is partly necessary because of the restricted naming-system used, but also because of pride of

Planning applications

MR DJ Maclellan - Erect house - 4B Luskentyre, Isle of Harris.

Mr Kenneth A Maclellan - Garage extension - 1B Garrynahine, Uig, Isle of Lewis.

Ian Martin - Erect house - 2B Laxdale, Isle of Lewis.

Mr N Macdonald - Installation of two No 900kW wind turbines with substation and access tracks - Wind Turbine, Kirkibost, Bernera, Isle of Lewis.

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd - Temporary permission to install two

'Gazette' Letters

Letters should be addressed to the Editor, Stornoway Gazette, 10 Francis Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2XE. The Gazette's e-mail address is: newsdesk@stornowaygazette.co.uk.

The deadline for ALL letters is 1pm on Monday.

Readers are reminded that letters sent for publication should be no more than 750 words long, be accompanied by the full name, address and daytime telephone number of the writer.

Any letters submitted without the above will not be published.

The Editor reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of clarity, legality and length.

The deadline for the arrival of all letters or other submitted copy is 1pm on Monday. Inclusion of submitted material cannot be guaranteed.

Submitted pictures sent by email should ideally be jpeg format and be sized between 500KB and 1 MB, however other sizes will still be accepted for publication

place and lineage.

However, as you have pointed out to me, my Mother's most commonly used patronymic contains a word that could be taken as racial abuse, or at the least, as racial stereotyping.

Having spent my professional career seeking to banish all causal slights to others based on lazy habits of speech from my own language and trying to encourage others to do the same, I completely agree that some nicknames, seen as perfectly harmless in more innocent times, would not be acceptable today.

I know that many people have little patience with 'political correctness' (and even I sometimes marvel at the lengths to which it can be taken) but I am also convinced that paying attention to what we say and being sensitive to the impact it can have on others has been greatly influential in changing attitudes for the better.

Happily, my Mother's alternative patronymic of 'Mairead Tharmiod Dubh-Cheann' says exactly who she was in her native Bernera; her married patronymic, 'Ben Tharmoid Carnaidh', says exactly who she was in Leurbost, where she spent most of her life.

You are the carrier of many traditions and I commend this one to you - with the quite proper caveat that you will choose not to use words that could be offensive to others.

DON MACLEOD
4 Sealand Court,
The Esplanade,
Rochester, Kent ME1 1QH

Worshipping together

Mr Fernie's letter (Gazette August 18) seems concerned, and I just don't know why, that churches in Stornoway don't worship together as he says. To crown it all there is yet another Presbyterian denomination.

Well, why not? Is that such a problem? How absurd, he thinks, as the town is already served enough by denominations of the same core beliefs.

Yes, and all other true Christian churches the length and breadth of the land have those fundamental core beliefs and should they, too, all join together, and do they, is equally absurd. How sensible is it, he says, with core beliefs in place that peripheral unimportant issues prevent these denominations from joining together, or how sensible is it that another church should arise over a trifle as exclusive psalm singing.

How can he talk in such a demeaning way over psalm singing as being unimportant or of no value? Unimportant to whom? Mr Fernie, if they are not sung with hymns and musical accompaniment, but all important if they are, as he stresses, psalms, hymns, spiritual songs.

His censorious attitude on this issue is to misunderstand what the psalmist said on praise. Sorry, I don't agree with his musing and his description of music would drown out the praise voices of the people, a common complaint in churches today.

Sorry, I don't agree that there are too many denominations in Stornoway, but I'm certain those who attend them wouldn't either. How's that? Well, they have the same core beliefs.

DONALD MURRAY
48 Sullven Way
Inverness

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VESSEL NAME	NAT	ARRIVED FROM	SAILED FOR	REMARKS
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Sarnia Liberty	GIB	Loch Carnan 15.08.11	Immingham 15.08.11	Oil Tanker
Forth Hunter	GIB	Sea 16.08.11	Uig, Skye 17.08.11	Tug/Survey Vessel
Norholm	BR	Lerwick 17.08.11	Ullapool 18.08.11	Wellboat
Visiting Fishing Vessels - Franchise BR Five visits; Julien Coleou FR 17.08.11; Guide Us BR Three visits; Kildonan BR Three visits; Zenith BR Two visits; Jean Claude Coulon II FR 17.08.11; Laurel BR 18.08.11; Sustain BR 17.08.11; Silver Cloud BR Two visits; Nordic Way BR 20.08.11				
Visiting Yachts - Cailead FR 15.08.11; Song of the Whale BR 16.08.11; Raphy BR 16.08.11; Wight Orca BR 17.08.11; Lambellie FR 17.08.11; Song of the Whale BR 19.08.11; Caramor BR 19.08.11				
Vessels expected - Saga Ruby MAL 25.08.11; Athena PORT 26.08.11; Ocean Countess PORT 27.08.11; Marco Polo BH 02.09.11 Vistanar UT 02.09.11				

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Date	Time	Level	Time	Level	Time	Level	Time	Level
Friday, August 26	0445	3.94	1054	1.70	1700	4.27	2330	1.34
Saturday, August 27	0527	4.26	1138	1.33	1737	4.63	-	-
Sunday, August 28	0012	0.92	0605	4.58	1219	0.97	1813	4.97
Monday, August 29	0051	0.55	0642	4.86	1258	0.67	1850	5.23
Tuesday, August 30	0130	0.29	0719	5.02	1338	0.47	1929	5.36
Wednesday, August 31	0209	0.18	0757	5.05	1418	0.41	2009	5.31
Thursday, September 1	0248	0.25	0839	4.94	1458	0.51	2053	5.09

All times are in GMT and levels in metres to Chart Datum.
Tide times at Castlebay, Barra, are 62 minutes earlier than Stornoway. Also Balivanich 45 minutes; Lochboisdale 47 minutes; E. Loch Tarbert 22 mins; W. Loch Tarbert 48 mins; Carloway 15 mins.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets..." (Matthew 5:17)

With these few words Jesus taught his disciples, and teaches us, his relationship to the Old Testament. He has been pressing home on his followers the place, and the importance, of good works, and immediately says that his intention is not to abolish the law.

Whatever he meant by the second part of the statement - that he had come to fulfill the law - we cannot easily set aside the meaning of the first. As far as Jesus was concerned, the law of God was permanent and inviolable. The moral requirements of God were never meant to be laid aside.

Filtered through the lens of the New Testament, the ten commandments have come into their own. They are modelled in Jesus, our perfect example, and are still the royal charter of freedom they were to Israel in the Old Testament.

Inserted by the local branch of the Lord's Day Observance Society / Day One.

Online Poll

Poll question:

Do you think a Gaelic centre based in South Uist is a good idea?

To register your vote, go to
www.stornowaygazette.co.uk

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